

ON NEUTRAL GROUND.

WASHINGTON SOCIETY IGNORES ALL POLITICAL DISTINCTIONS.

Statesmen Who Shine in the Best Social Circles—Men of "Physical Potency"—Central Figures Among the Ladies—The White House Mistress.

(Special Correspondence.)

WASHINGTON, May 17.—Statesmen come and statesmen go, but Washington society goes on forever. And here is the beauty of it—no political revolution can affect the social standing of the man who is in the swim so long as he stays in Washington. Even if he is defeated and out for a term, yet when he returns he takes his old place, and all is serene. Of course the heads of official society change with each change of administration, but while president and vice president, secretaries and their co-laborers in congress are Democrats or Republicans, as the case may be, the ladies of the cabinet and the wives of members who lead in society take a sort of pride in ignoring all such distinctions, and the army and naval officers, diplomats, scientists and society people of Washington remain as a constant and nonpolitical quantity. Society is indeed neutral in politics and religion. Catholic and Protestant, Greek and Buddhist, are all on one footing. Democrat, Republican and even the Populist and the single taxer meet in the parlors of the leading ladies, and while the color line is as yet but slightly infringed upon, Fred Douglass and the Japanese and Chinese ambassadors have occasionally met socially in the houses of the best.

Where Strife is Stilled.
It is this condition which gives the conservative ladies of Washington their strongest argument against woman suffrage. Put into the coarser language of man, their plea is substantially this: In all the hurly burly of a heated campaign there is one common meeting ground for all parties where strife is stilled. From the fiercest partisan contest in the capitol the disputants may pass at once to a precinct where the situation is like that known in the middle ages as "the peace of God"—an area where all arms and armor were to be left off and the bitterest enemies were controlled by the voice of a woman or a priest.

This precinct is in the ladies' parlor, and it is there that all the asperities of politics are smoothed away, and from there congressmen go to their rest in a

tion and great physical potency. If there is such a thing as perfect health in Washington, he possesses it. He is a man of fine presence, very thorough in his knowledge of law, only knows what nerves are by hearing of them, and is, generally speaking, a big, straight, solid, all around man. He is quite fortunate also in his domestic relations, his wife possessing the same perfect health and general capacity for the enjoyment of life, and taken all in all there is no better preserved pair in Washington. They are society people in the fullest and best sense of the word.

Young and Pretty.

On the Republican side of the committee the society men are Senators Frye and Davis. The wife of the latter is accounted the youngest looking woman in the senatorial circle and would receive a big vote as a candidate for the place of pretest. In the house committee on foreign affairs the noted society men are Henry St. George Tucker of Virginia and Hugh A. Dinsmore of Arkansas, the latter generally spoken of as The Amiable. Just at present Mr. Tucker has little time for society, as they are giving him an uncommonly lively fight in his district, the Tenth Virginia. All his rivals for the nomination are very prominent men, and a red-hot fight is on, while the Republicans are expected to nominate ex-Congressman Yost, which will probably make the fight for election quite as close and doubtful as that for nomination. It is true that Mr. Tucker had a majority of 2,700 in 1892, but with a combination of Republicans and Populists against him those figures would not count for certainty this year. His father, the noted John Randolph Tucker, was long eminent in congress, and, except the Brookridge, no family is more prominent in the central south. They are by inheritance leaders in society. The present representative is still young, a very able lawyer, a thorough society man and personally very popular in the house.

A Born Society Leader.

Mr. Dinsmore also has a home fight on his hands, but does not allow it to trouble him, as he has one of those happy temperaments which neither opposition nor disappointment can depress. His chief title to distinction rests on his three years' service as minister resident and consul general of the United States in the kingdom of Korea. His only fault in that matter is that he will not talk about it for publication, and he tells some pretty hard stories about newspaper men who have misrepresented him. Some of our southern friends think he is the coming man of Arkansas, if not of the southwest, or of the whole south indeed. He is but 43 years old and looks 30, is a gentleman of very attractive manners and likes society almost as well as it likes him. His high rank in the house rests as much on his social as on his intellectual qualities, and it may be said of him that he is a born society leader. Another society man on that committee is Hon. Andrew Price of Louisiana, who succeeded his father-in-law, Edward Gay. Mr. Gay ranked among the first millionaires of his section, and his daughter, Mrs. Price, enjoys all the advantages which wealth can add to native ability. Both are young and fond of society, and Washington rejoices that he has a sure thing district.

The Republican side of this committee is equally well supplied with society lights. Hon. Robert R. Hitt of Illinois, whose fame is national, married a noted heiress, a Miss Reynolds of Lafayette, Ind., and their social life is even more successful than his political career. His service in diplomatic life abroad and in various positions at home and his travels in Europe and general opportunities for culture have been well improved, and his knowledge of foreign affairs was so generally recognized that he was given a high place on this committee on his first entrance into congress.

Hon. Bellamy Storer of the First Ohio district is also a great society man and popular in the house. He is a graduate of Harvard and a very thorough lawyer. Hon. William Everett of Massachusetts bears a historic name and is sought by society rather than a seeker for its favors. He is, to put it mildly, a peculiar sort of man, and much of the humor he excites seems to be quite accidental on his part. Next to foreign affairs, the committees on military and naval affairs come most into contact with what may be called the permanent society of Washington, but a further enumeration would make this look more like an extract from the book of Chronicles than a letter on society.

Prominent Ladies.

Reversing the usual order, let us now give place to the ladies. It is a matter of universal remark that this administration has not been characterized by such activity and brilliancy in social affairs as was the former one of Mr. Cleveland, when Mrs. Whitney was the great leader and central figure. Mrs. Cleveland is not nearly so active in society as formerly, and one sees her name oftener as patroness of some entertainment for charity's sake. She has developed a very decided tendency to embonpoint, to put it mildly, but is still a handsome though rather large woman. As mistress of the White House she necessarily holds a certain rank, but the ladies of the cabinet take the lead in the more active social functions. The dull season is now beginning, but for the past few months Mrs. Carlisle has been the most prominent figure and many times described as a gracious and generous hostess of the finest Kentucky type. Mrs. Bissell is counted a very handsome woman, with dark eyes and hair, a fine complexion and a form as once vigorous and graceful. Mrs. Lamont is almost as well known to the reading public, thanks to the pens of lady correspondents, as to Washington society, and the same may be said of Miss Lela Herbert, daughter of the secretary of the navy, who does the honors of her father's house. Mrs. Gresham is not conspicuous in society, but does her part quietly, and the same may be said of Mrs. Olney.

J. H. BEADLE.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

New York Stock Market.

NEW YORK, May 21.—Speculation at the stock exchange was active to-day and both the bulls and bears had their innings. At the start the influence of heavy London buying, the foreigners according to competent judges, having purchased 25,000 shares of Erie, Atchafalaya, St. Paul and Louisville and Nashville, gave the advantage to those operating for higher prices. The industrials, however, did not sympathize with the improvement at this time, and in fact Sugar broke from 95½ to 92½, the lowest figure for a long time. Whiskey also fell to 21½, while Manhattan broke 2½ to 114.

When the demand for the foreigners abated, a leading bear made a demonstration against the stocks of bankrupt roads, and new records were made for these issues. Northern Pacific preferred dropped 4, Reading ½, Union Pacific 1½, New England ½, Atchafalaya ½ and Erie preferred 1½. A good deal of long stock came on the market by holders who do not fancy paying, what they term, exorbitant assessments likely to be called for under the terms of the proposed reorganization. The suddenness of the decline led the foreigners to part with some of the success they had bought early in the day, and this started a downward movement in St. Paul, Rock Island, Burlington and Quincy, Louisville and Nashville, Western Union and Missouri Pacific.

St. Paul got down to 57 and was freely pressed for sale. In the last hour Sugar and Chicago Gas developed strength, selling up to 96½ and 67½ respectively. This checked the declining tendency in the general list and the bears were inclined to go slow as they did not understand the sudden change of front in the industrials. A general rally ensued and the market left off firmer. Net changes for the day show advances of ½ to 1½ per cent. in Sugar, Chicago Gas and Louisville and Nashville, and declines of ½ to 2½ per cent. in the other prominent issues. In the inactive stocks Pullman Palace and New York, El Paso first preferred lost 2, Alton and Terre Haute ½ and Louisville, New Albany and Chicago preferred ½.

The gold engagements for to-morrow's European steamer was expected. Further heavy amounts are likely to go later in the week as the foreign purchases of stocks did not have any effect on the sterling exchange market. About the best feature of the day from the brokers' point of view was the material increase in the dealings, 305,000 shares having changed hands. The bond market was weak.

Money on call easy at 1 per cent., last loan at 1, and closing offered at 1 per cent. Prime mercantile paper, 3½ to 4 per cent. Bar silver, 62½. Sterling exchange is firm, with actual business in bankers' bills at 487½ to 487½ for sixty days, and 488½ to 489 for demand; posted rates, 488½ to 490. Commercial bills, 486½ to 487. Government bonds lower. State bonds dull; Railroad bonds weak. Silver at the board was neglected. Norfolk and Western closed at 20.

Produce and Merchandise.

NEW YORK, May 21.—Flour dull, about steady; winter wheat, low grades, 1.90 to 2.50; patents, 3.10 to 3.30; Minnesota clear, 2.25 to 2.75; patents, 3.25 to 4.10; low extras, 1.90 to 2.50; Southern flour dull, steady; common to fair extra, 2.00 to 3.00; good to choice, do 3.00 to 3.50. Wheat dull, higher, with options closing weak; No. 2 red, store and elevator 58½ to 58½; afloat 58½ to 58½; options fairly active and irregular, opening strong at 1 to 1½ advance, declined ½ to 1, rallied ½ to ¾, closing firm at ¾ to ¾ per cent. over Saturday; No. 2 red, May, 59½; June, 58½; July, 59½.

Corn moderately active, easier; No. 2, 42½ elevator, 42½ to 43½ afloat; options dull and unchanged to ½ lower; closing weak, May, 43; July, 43½; September, 44. Oats, spots, fairly active, firmer; options dull, May, 39½; June, 38½; July, 38; spot No. 2, 39½ to 41; No. 2 white, 43½; mixed Western, 40 to 41; white do, 43 to 46½. Hay fairly active and steady; shipping, 60 to 65; good to choice, 80 to 90. Wool firm and quiet; domestic fleece, 20 to 25; pulled, 16 to 35. Beef dull and steady; family 12 to 14; extra mess, 8 to 8.50; beef hams quiet.

Rice steady, dull; domestic fair to extra, 3½ to 5½; Japan, 4½ to 4¾. Molasses, foreign nominal; New Orleans, open kettle, good to choice, 27 to 30, quiet and steady. Peanuts quiet. Coffee options closed steady, 5 to 10 points up; June, 15.20; August, 14.50 to 14.60; October, 13.90; spot Rio dull, nominal; No. 7, 16½. Sugar, raw dull, unchanged; refined quiet and steady; off A, 3 11-16 to 3 15-16; standard A, 4 to 4 13-16; cut loaf, 4½ to 4 15-16; crushed, 4½ to 4 15-16; granulated, 4 to 4 5-16. Freights Liverpool, moderate demand, steady; cotton, 3-64 pence; grain, 5 pence.

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SENATOR JOHN T. MORGAN.

tranquil frame of mind and begin the next day as if nothing had happened. "Is it not better," the ladies ask, "that this neutral ground of society should be sacredly preserved? Suppose we, too, were in the fight, and the animosities of each day and campaign were carried over to the next"—but it would take columns to report what the antisuffragists declare would be the results.

This, however, is the reasoning of but one section of Washington society. The ladies most active with pen and pencil would be carried into politics instead of the reverse, and Washington has some very able woman's rights indeed. Kate Field's Washington is perhaps the most noted lady's paper, and her views are known to everybody. Other writers and managers of woman's papers or columns in other papers are Mrs. Clara B. Colby of The Woman's Tribune, Mrs. Logan of The Home Magazine, Miss J. B. Lockwood of The Epitome and Miss Eliza R. Scidmore of Harper's periodicals. Noted on the local press are Miss Schiller of The Evening News, Miss Kate Thomas of The Washington Post, Miss Helena McCarty of The Evening Star, Miss Virginia Butler, Miss J. E. Jennings, Miss Caroline Lingle, managing editor of Kate Field's paper, and some others. And on the subject of woman's suffrage this local corps is about equally divided.

Senator Morgan's Varied Knowledge.

When we come to the statesman, the society men are found mostly in three committees. First of all are the committees on foreign affairs, as their relations are with the diplomatic corps, and that corps is of course the very center of the central nucleus of the best society at every nation's capital. Senator John T. Morgan, at the head of the senate committee, is credited with having the most varied and ready knowledge on a great number of subjects of any man in the senate. In classical scholarship he is not the equal of Mr. Lodge, Mr. Turpie or perhaps of some others, but he has had a remarkably varied experience in life, has studied every detail of all the duties he has had to perform as lawyer, soldier, politician, senator and diplomat and is besides a great reader of general literature and gifted with a retentive memory. President Harrison once said that he had often occasion to test the ready knowledge of Senator Morgan and had never known him to fail. He is a versatile genius, a society man and a good all around talker, having at command an unlimited supply of cases in point and happy illustrations.

Senator Butler, his right hand man on the committee, does not strike one at first view as a society man, but he is quite a favorite in the social circle. So also is Senator George Gray, who owes much to a native strength of constitu-